

REMARKS

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's determination that claims 9, 11-13 and 15-17 contain allowable subject matter (Office Action, dated May 21, 2004, page 4, lines 12-14).

Claims 9, 11, 13, 15 and 17 have been canceled without prejudice. Claims 4, 10, 12, 14 and 16 have been amended, and new claims 18 and 19 have been added as follows.

Independent claims 4, 10 and 14 have been amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter of claims 9, 11 and 15, respectively. Therefore, claims 4, 10 and 14 are in condition for allowance. In view of the present amendment, claim 4 now has the same scope as original claim 9, claim 10 now has the same scope as original claim 11, and claim 14 now has the same scope as original claim 15.

Claim 12 has been amended to depend upon claim 10 and claim 16 has been amended to depend upon claim 14. Because claims 12 and 16 depend upon allowable base claims, they are likewise allowable.

New claim 18 corresponds to original claim 13 written in independent form. Claim 18 is allowable for the reasons of record. New claim 19 corresponds to original claim 17 written in independent form. Claim 19 is allowable for the reasons of record.

The present amendment adds no new matter to the application.

Conclusion

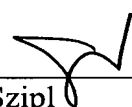
Independent claims 4, 10, 14, 18 and 19 all incorporate allowable subject matter and are allowable for the reasons of record. Claims 12 and 16 depend upon an allowable base claim and are likewise allowable.

For all of the above reasons, claims 4, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18 and 19 are in condition for allowance and a prompt notice of allowance is earnestly solicited.

Questions are welcomed by the below-signed attorney for Applicants.

Respectfully submitted,

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